1	2	3	4	5
			Panchayats in 2005-06 as budget grants. Reported that total transfer of funds to Panchayats in 2005-06 was Rs. 1066 crore.	authority for all posts except group D posts at GP level, for which EO of Panchayat samiti is the appointing authority. This has been done by the WB Panchayat amendment Act, 2006. Each GP has 6 sanctioned posts.

Road fatalities in the country

*335. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that our country was amongst the highest in the world in road fatalities in 1995 and such fatalities are unabated;

(b) if so, whether it is high time to frame a national policy to prevent and reduce traffic fatalities; and

(c) if so, by when it is expected to be framed and implemented in order to save hundreds of lives?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R BAALU): (a) The available road crash fatalities per one lakh population in respect of some selected developed and developing countries from the year 1995 to 2004 are as under:—

SI. No.	Name of the country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1.	Australia	11.2	10.8	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.0	8.8	8.2	7.94
2.	Canada	11.3	10.3	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.5	9.3	8.7	8.54
3.	France	15.3	14.7	14.4	15.1	14.4	13.6	13.8	12.9	10.2	9.16
4	Germany	11.6	10.7	10.4	9.5	9.5	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.08
5	Italy	12.3	12.3	11.7	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.7	10.5	9.77
6	India	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.6
7	Japan	10.1	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.5	7.0	6.65
8	New Zealand	16.2	14.1	14.4	13.3	13.4	12.1	11.8	10.3	NA	NA
9	Rep of Korea	NA	32.3	29.3	22.7	23.2	21.8	17.2	14.9	15.1	13.65
10	Spain	14.7	14.0	14.3	15.1	14.6	14.6	13.8	13.2	12.8	11.11
11	Sweden	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.6	6.7	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.34
12	Switzerland	9.9	8.7	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.1	NA	NA
13	UK	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.38
14	USA	15.9	15.8	15.7	15.3	15.3	15.2	14.8	14.9	14.7	14.52

NA-Not available

(Source: DRIVE & STAY ALIVE. INC. and for INDIA, Department of Road Transport and Highways)

(b) and (c) A Committee to deliberate and recommend creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management under the chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport was set up. The draft National Road Safety Policy prepared by this Department was also referred to this Committee alongwith the inputs received from various forums for its consideration. The Committee has submitted its report, *inter-alia*, recommending creation of a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of Parliament and also submitted the modified draft National Road Safety Policy which has to be implemented through the said Board. The inter-Ministerial consultation in this regard is progressing.

Safeguarding interests of labourers

†*336. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector companies are also the members of JBCCI set up for coal industry;

(b) whether decision taken in JBCCI are also applicable to these companies; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken by Government to safeguard the interests of labourers of these private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. Private Coal Companies have not agreed to be associated with the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI-VIII).

(b) No, Sir, Since the decisions to be taken in JBCCI-VIII are to be implemented by the signatory companies, these would not be applicable to private sector companies, who are not participating in the negotiations of JBCCI-VIII.

(c) As far as private sector companies are concerned, the wage settlement etc., be it bipartite or tripartite, are signed when the parties agree to sign the settlement. There is no provision to force any party to sign the settlement. However, if the demands placed before the employer are not accepted by him, the aggrieved union can always raise an industrial dispute before the conciliation machinery. If the dispute is not settled, the matter is referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The interests of labourers in private sector companies are safeguarded in accordance with provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. Sufficient safeguards have been provided under the above Act and relevant Rules with respect to the wages, service conditions, provident fund, health and other social security measures. Enforcement of the above Act and Rules is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments in their jurisdiction.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.